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LETTERS.

A CALL FOR DOCUMENTS

Washington

Congress is now considering legislation that would exempt certain Central Intelligence Agency files from the search and review requirements of the Freedom of Information Act [Angus Mackenzie, "The Operational Files Exemption," and Morton H. Halperin and Allan Adler, "There Is No Deal," *The Nation*, Sept. 24]. The Senate Intelligence Committee unanimously approved a revised version of the bill (S. 1324) on October 4, and should issue its accompanying report by October 21.

In its testimony on S. 1324, the American Civil Liberties Union said it would oppose the bill if its passage would result in any loss of access to information that had previously been released under the F.O.I.A. In order to determine if there would be any loss, the committee asked the C.I.A. to examine a list of documents it had already released. The C.I.A. studied "From Official Files," a Center for National Security Studies report which summarizes all documents released to the center as well as other C.I.A. documents that were reported in the press or otherwise came to the attention of the center. The C.I.A.'s analysis indicates that none of these documents would be exempt under the terms of S. 1324 and explains why.

That analysis, which will be published in the record of the committee's hearings, is important in assessing the bill's impact. The A.C.L.U., however, wants to be sure that certain types of documents are not missing from the center's summary. For this reason, the A.C.L.U. is asking people who have received C.I.A. documents under the act and who suspect that those documents would not be subject to search and review under the

proposed bill to submit copies of the documents for review. The A.C.L.U. will try to ascertain if the types of documents submitted would be exempt. The material will not be disseminated if so requested; the A.C.L.U. will pay copying costs if necessary. Documents should be sent to Allan Adler, Center for National Security Studies, 122 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. The center is a project of the A.C.L.U. Foundation and the Fund for Peace.

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